Rhode Island Historical Society Collections

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

Vol. XV January, 1922 No. 1

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The Inscribed Rocks of Narragansett Bay

BY EDMUND B. DELABARRE

IV. The Contributions of Newport and Middletown

There have been numerous rumors of the existence of inscribed rocks in the vicinity of Newport. Except for a few incisions that were not meant to convey any significance, and such others as have been made by white men within the last two hundred years, they still remain unverified and improbable rumors. Nevertheless, there are in the vicinity several examples of markings that are natural, accidental, or the incidental result of operations that had another purpose, and these may have led to misinterpretation as intended inscriptions. In any field of inquiry, knowledge is not complete until not only the true details, but also the false appearances that may simulate fact, are understood; and to a psychologist the latter have a positive and fascinating interest of their own.

It requires error outgrown as well as truth comprehended to make a universe. Consequently, it will not be a waste of effort for us to examine what this locality has to offer.

If there had been any genuine foundation for the rumors alluded to, it seems likely that Dr. Stiles must have heard of them, for he sought indefatigably for inscriptions on rocks. His notes, we may be sure, record every instance which was brought to his attention, and he would certainly have visited every one that he could discover and would have made drawings of it. In fact, he wrote in 1790: "I have made great inquiry these 20 years past for similar inscriptions to those of the Dighton Rock."[1] Yet although he resided in Newport for twenty-one years, he gives no hint of there being any ancient records of the sort nearer than Portsmouth. He does, however, mention two that were made in 1728. Our own interest is principally in the older and more mysterious rock-carvings, rather than in these. Yet the fact that at least one white man followed the impulse to write upon such surfaces at so early a date is not without its bearing upon our interpretation of the more puzzling cases.

Stiles's descriptions are accompanied by sketch-maps showing the location of the rocks and by drawings of their appearance, and are found on pages 251 and 252 in the second volume of his manuscript "Itineraries." Both instances, without the maps and drawings, have been included in Professor Dexter's "Extracts from the Itineraries." The first drawing is of a rock measuring 2½ by 5½ feet, upon which is an inscription in capital letters reading: "1728.10.21. Beleve in Christ & Live in No Sin." The accompanying description is dated June 22, 1767, and says: "This is an Inscription which I took off a Rock on the Shore at Brenton's Point a little North of the Reef & at the SW. corner of Rhode Island, 5 miles SW. from Newport. It is supposed to have been put on by Rev^{d} Nathaniel Clap. I suppose the 10 21 under 1728 denotes 21st day of 10th month, or Oct^{r} 21, 1728. M^{r} Clap died in New-

[1]Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1917, xix. 96.

port 1745 having Labored in the Ministry from 1695 or 50 years."

The other stone, 12 feet by 4, is shown lying above a rocky shore on a steep bank ten feet high from the water, at the northwest corner of Price's Cove. It bears the inscription: "8.21.1728. God Presarve All Mankind." Stiles remarks: "July 8. 1767. I viewed a Stone at price's Cove. The stone light grey & hard. The Inscription is daylay trodden upon by the passing fishermen. The figures 21 of 8 M° 1728 are done by seperate Dots. The Letters are done in the same manner as those at the Point above a Mile Westward. On another stone [shown near the first and measuring 8 by 12 feet] is a number of seeming Incisions of the Wedge or Runic Kind, but evidently the Work of Nature only." The two inscriptions are once more referred to by Stiles in 1774, when he writes: "Jahleel Brenton Esq. died Nov. 8, 1732, AEt. 77. . . . His father was Gov. Brenton. The words PRESARVE and BELEVE in the Inscriptions are so illy spelled, that I sometimes doubt whether Mr Clap was the Author. Perhaps Mr Brenton was."[1]

I looked for these rocks on July 11, 1920. One of them has been moved from its original location and now stands, with its inscription still clear and well preserved, close to the house of the large estate situated just where the "Shore Drive" makes its turn at Brenton's Point. The one at Price's Cove I failed to discover, either then or at a later visit. It may have been blasted out or covered over, for many changes have occurred at this place since Stiles's day. I did, however, see one or more rocks with the wedge-like marks which Stiles rightly attributed to the work of Nature only. His doubts concerning authorship founded upon Mr. Clap's poor spelling perhaps do not take changing fashions sufficiently into account, and cannot appeal to us as very decisive if we notice his own easy deviations from modern usage in this respect.

[1]Extracts from the Itineraries and other Miscellanies of Ezra Stiles, 1916, pp. 230, 353.

His statement that one of the rocks was "daylay trodden upon by the passing fishermen" suggests that the motive for these pious exhortations may have been to call constant attention of such men to their spiritual welfare. It lies within the memory of many of us still living that not so very long ago numerous rocks for many miles around Providence had painted on them similar exhortations and scriptural verses, and that the author of them was a familiar sight upon our streets, wearing garments on which similar verses were painted, mutely urging his fellows to reflect upon their sins and to lead better lives.

The first indication that there might be in the neighborhood rocks with more ancient records is contained in the letter which Dr. Webb wrote to Professor Rafn of Denmark on October 31, 1835, in which he says that John Almy of Tiverton thought he had heard of an inscription-rock at Sachuest Point.[1] There exists, however, no other allusion to the possibility that there might be one there. But on March 3, 1840, Dr. Christopher G. Perry of Newport reported to the Rhode Island Historical Society that he had discovered some rocks near Newport bearing inscriptions resembling those on the rocks at Dighton and Portsmouth. The records of the Society state: "Since then the rock has been visited and examined by John R. Bartlett. The impressions were found to be very indistinct, but Mr. B. succeeded in making a drawing, which will be presented to the Society."[2] Unfortunately no such drawing has been preserved, and we have no knowledge even of the approximate location of the rock or of the appearance of its characters. It is not improbable that it was similar to, if not identical with, those seen at Price's Cove by Stiles and myself, bearing seeming incisions that were "evidently the Work of Nature only."

These seem to be the only published allusions to any petroglyph near Newport, though one hears also vague rumors

[1] Antiquitates Americanae, p. 404.

[2] See manuscript volumes of the Society: Correspondence and Reports, iii. 68, and Trustees' Records, Sept. 21, 1840.

such as easily arise and turn out on investigation to have either no foundation or to be based on superficial inspection of markings that have only natural causes as their source. But besides these, there is one set of markings that are unquestionably artificial—a collection of basins and grooves on the rocks of the Bluffs near Purgatory. It is rather remarkable that the only allusions to them in print that I have been able to discover are such as speak of them in connection with foolish legends only, calling them the Devil's footprints, or the marks of his dragging a sinful woman over the rocks, or of the axe that he used in beheading her. They appear never to have been really described, though they are familiar to the passing visitor. Yet they are interesting in themselves and deserving of inquiry concerning their probable origin. And there are other reasons why it is important to include a discussion of them in these papers: although they do not in any sense constitute an inscription, yet our ability to distinguish genuine from merely apparent inscriptions will be increased by acquaintance with all sorts of unintentional, non-graphic effects of human agency as well as with accidental resemblances to inscriptions that are the result of purely natural causes; and knowledge of them probably clears up a long-standing mystery about Bishop Berkeley and his reported opinion concerning Dighton Rock.

The chart and photographs[1] of Plates XVI and XVII show the location of the Purgatory rocks and the appearance of the markings. These occur on narrow sandstone intrusions in the conglomerates at the lowest part of the ledges near their northern extremity at Sachuest Beach, just before the rocks begin to rise into cliffs. They begin about 250 feet beyond the extreme meeting-point of rocks and beach, and occur at intervals for a distance of about 100 feet toward the south. They are of two kinds. Some of them are shallow oval or roundish depressions or basins, somewhat like pot-holes but clearly not due to natural forces. They might even be classed as large

[1]Taken by the writer on August 23, 1921.

cup-markings, such as were described in our last paper. There are about three dozen of them in all, ranging in size from long ovals measuring about 25 by 10 inches, down to more nearly circular cups about 7 to 10 inches in one diameter and 6 to 9 in the other. Their depth runs from a little less than an inch to about 2 inches. Some are rather rough and irregular, others very regular, clear-cut and smooth. The grooves of the second type look very much like such a cut as would be made in soft material by a clean blow with a sharp axe. The largest is 14 inches long, 1¼ wide and 1⅝ deep at the centre, narrowing and curving upward to a point at either extremity. Another measures 9 by 1¼, and ¾ deep. Most of them are 7 to 10 inches long, ¼ to ½ wide, and ⅛ to ¼ deep. I counted twelve of them in all. One of them, shown in the photograph, is at the bottom of one of the basins. Besides these narrow grooves and wider basins, there are two other incisions of interest, besides numerous names and initials. One is a representation of an arrow, about 3½ inches long, shallow but very clear. The other is a figure like the "eye" of a dressmaker's hook-and-eye, about 5 inches long and wide, with a sort of U between the small circles of the open end. The U and the circles are made of very small clear dots, the rest is grooved. Whether these two figures are due to the makers of the other grooves and basins, or to more recent visitors, it is impossible to determine.

While studying these basins, I heard some passers-by speak of them as "Devil's Footprints," probably because of the frequently repeated legends already referred to. Apparently this name gets attached everywhere to any mysterious holes in rocks that in the least resemble the prints of feet or hoofs. There are other alleged instances of marks made by the Devil in Warwick, in Swansea, near New Bedford, and probably in other places. The only serious account of the origin of these near Newport that I have heard of was related to me by Dr. Eugene P. King of Providence. He was told about 30 years ago that the basins were made in old days by Indians in polish-

ing some object by rubbing it round and round. As to the "axe-cut" grooves, the Indians made them also, he was informed, in sharpening their arrow-points; and we shall see that this same theory was probably advanced nearly 200 years ago. Doubtless it was not actually stone arrow-points that were thus sharpened there, for these the Indians fashioned and sharpened by flaking, not by grinding. But others of their implements, including bone and horn arrows and darts, were polished and sharpened by grinding, and for this purpose, says W. H. Holmes,[1] "in many localities exposed surfaces of rock in place were utilized, and these are often covered with the grooves produced by the grinding work. These markings range from narrow, shallow lines produced by shaping pointed objects, to broad channels made in shaping large implements and utensils." This description exactly applies to the markings on these Purgatory rocks, and might have been written with especial reference to them. It supplies the natural and almost certain explanation of their origin.

The possible connection with Berkeley is this: According to Eugène du Simitière, writing about 1781, "there is a tradition very current in New England, but particularly at New Port that when the learned Dean Berkeley resided near that last mentioned place about the year 1732[2] he visited the rock at Taunton, and had began an Elaborate dissertation upon the supposed inscription, when a farmer in the neighborhood, observing the Dean one day employed in copying the unknown characters, informed him, that, that rock had been used formerly by the Indians that resorted thither to Shoot ducks, and dart fish, to wett [whet] and Sharpen the points of their arrows and darts on that Stone which was the cause of the

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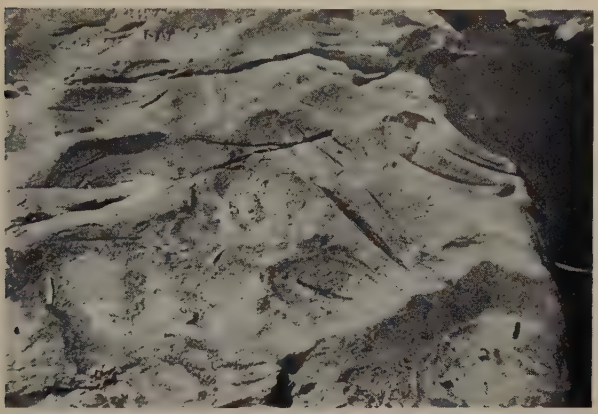
[1]Handbook of American Indians, Bureau of Amer. Ethnology, Bulletin 30, part i, page 7.

[2]Berkeley arrived in Newport on January 23, 1729, and resided there and at Whitehall until a few days before he sailed for England on September 21, 1731.

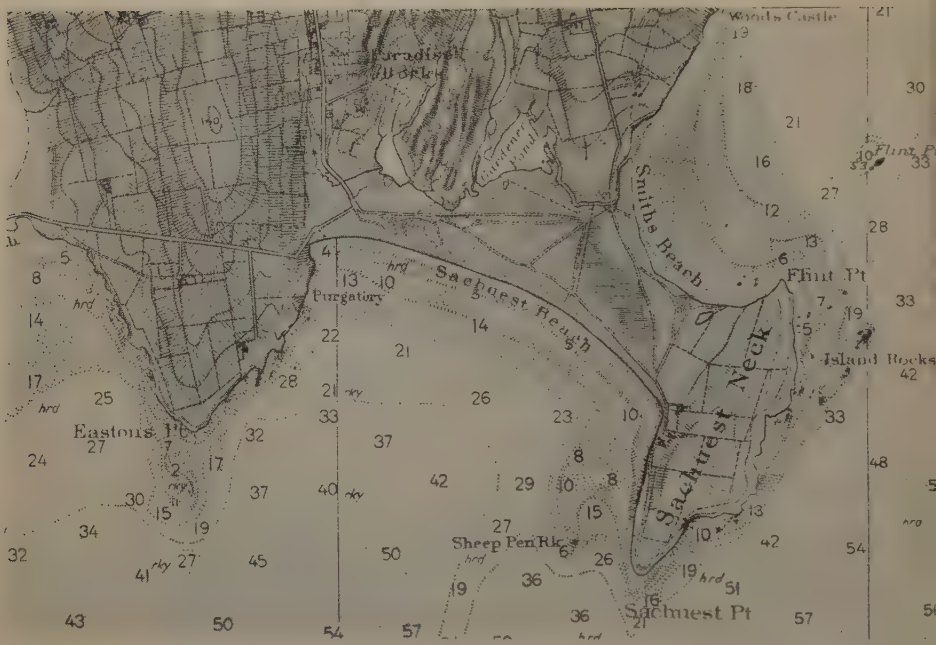
various hollow lines and figures formed thereon.'"[1] Now although we have evidence from other sources both that Berkeley visited Dighton Rock and that the theory mentioned was applied to it, yet it seems incredible that Berkeley or anyone, after really seeing the rock, could have believed that any of its carvings could have been produced in that manner. It seems much more likely that the legend as related is a case of transference from one region, of which it may be true, to another where it cannot possibly apply. Berkeley wrote much of his *Alciphron* while sitting under the shelter of the overhanging ledges at Paradise Rocks. He was a lover of nature, and must have strolled upon the beaches and climbed over the rocks near Purgatory, close by. In fact, at the beginning of the second dialogue of the treatise mentioned, he speaks of going down to a beach, "where we walked on the smooth sand, with the ocean on one hand, and on the other wild broken rocks," and this was doubtless not his only visit there. It was there, much more probably than at Assonet Neck, that "a farmer of the neighborhood" expounded to him, and perhaps with truth, the same explanation of the marks that was still current when Dr. King heard the story. Afterwards, when the Dean had described his visits and observations at both places, his auditors, unacquainted with either, easily mixed them up and attached the arrow-sharpening incident to the wrong rock.

If we could trust the stories that were told in 1860 by that inventor of marvelous tales, Francis Loring, Chief Big Thunder, of whom we spoke in discussing the Mount Hope rock, then King's Rocks near Warren would constitute another case where marks were made by Indians without intention, incidentally to their other operations. Loring's probably mythical "book of skins, or of birch-bark," containing the pictographic national records of the Wampanoags, is reported to have included a picture which "represented four men rolling a heavy circular stone, by a stick placed through a hole in the

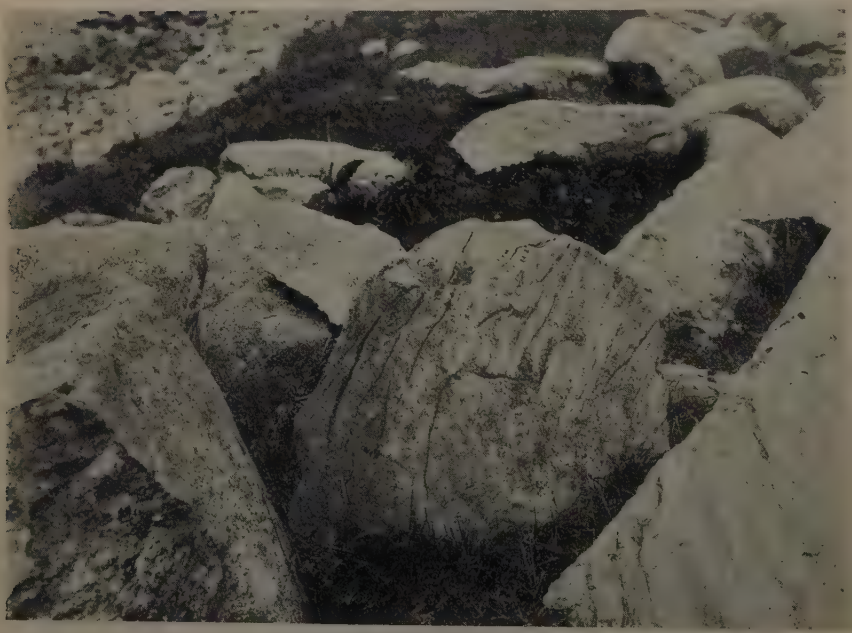
[1]Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1916, xviii. 267.



The basins and grooves on ledges near Purgatory



Section of Chart of Narragansett Bay



A plough-scored rock on Sachuest Neck

centre, back and forth over a quantity of corn, and described as the Wampanoag national grinding mill, where corn was ground for war parties or for any large public gathering of the people."[1] These rocks are a ledge of mixed shale and sandstone, close up against a stone wall bordering the west side of the road leading north from Warren on the east side of Warren River, exactly where the State line crosses the road about two miles from Warren. There is a long trough worn into the surface of the ledge. According to Loring, this trough was made by Indian men rolling their heavy corn-grinding stone. Otis Olney Wright[2] gives a similar though slightly differing account of it. Here, he says, "the Indians from all over New England came to celebrate their victories. . . . In this rock can be seen the old hollow where the Indian women ground their corn for the feast, and the actual print of their knees as they knelt there for years." But Professor Charles W. Brown tells me that, in the opinion of geologists, the rock exhibits nothing more than the results of glaciation.

It would be interesting to know whether the marks at Purgatory, or those at Price's Cove, or others, were the ones found by Dr. Perry and drawn by Mr. Bartlett. To search anew the entire country about Newport with its miles of rocky shore would be a hopeless task. It seemed to the writer, however, that it would be worth while to make a casual inspection, at least, of Sachuest Point in Middletown, the only definite situation mentioned in the earlier rumors. Even here, the shore is lined with a chaotic mass of thousands of rocks and boulders, impossible to examine thoroughly and offering little promise of success in the search. I visited the place on September 2, 1919, and was rewarded by the discovery of a rock that appeared at first sight to be covered with rude artificial characters. Its location is easily discoverable on the chart of Plate XVII. It lay on the top of a high steep bank below

[1]Warren Telegraph, June 2, 1860, p. 2, col. 4; V. Baker, Massasoit's Town, 1904, p. 37.

[2]History of Swansea, 1917, p. 239.

which lies the sea, about 250 feet south of a gate closing the road just beyond the group of buildings near the curve of the shore at the easterly end of Sachuest Beach. Since then I have found there other rocks similarly marked, and some of these were brought to Providence for more convenient study by a Committee of this Society appointed in February, 1920, to secure Inscribed Rocks, if possible, for the Museum of the Society. Finding no others that could be moved, the Committee, consisting of Livingston Ham, Judge Elmer J. Rathbun and myself, on July 17, 1920, took these stones for examination, without as yet having reached any conclusion as to whether their marks constituted inscriptions or were due to other causes.

The lines of the incisions on these rocks are not deep, averaging two or three millimeters, often shallower and rarely deeper; and their width is usually from ⅛ to ¼ inch. They are not pecked in, but are semi-circular smooth cuts, as if made with a half-round chisel. Plate XVII, from a photograph which I took on July 11, 1920, gives a fairly adequate idea of their appearance. Only a few rocks of this region, modern or of doubtful age, were thus incised; in all the others, the lines are pecked. This does not settle the question as to whether the marks are of natural origin, or are purely accidental though of human agency, or are intentionally made human records. We would not be justified in calling them the latter, unless they include forms that could not be due to either of the other causes. It seems clear that they are not glacial striae, or worn thus by pebbles driven by waves, or the result of any other natural agencies. Mr. Harry E. Peckham, manager, and Jesse Vera, lessee of the farm, report that these rocks were all brought there from the neighboring field when it was cleared for planting, about 17 years ago and later. It is not impossible, however, that some of them were placed there for a similar reason sufficiently long before that to have served as a foundation for the rumor that was related to Dr. Webb by John Almy. When I was exploring the place during one of

my visits, a Portuguese boy living on the farm told me he did not believe that Indians made the marks; instead, "that's all the way they stick an iron bar to move the rock off the fields." This surmise of his cannot be the full explanation. Yet it gives the clue to what may have been the real agency.

After careful study of the incisions I am now fully convinced that on all these stones they are for the most part simply plough-marks, with a smaller number due to the action of harrow and crowbar; and Mr. Peckham tells me that this is his belief also. The neighboring cultivated field contains many stones, slabs and small boulders, buried at various depths. The stones on the bank have been drawn out from this field from time to time. A stone lying with a flat face upward at just the right depth to engage the nose of the plough without much interruption to its progress would be scored by just such lines year after year, until it became enough of a nuisance to get dug out and carted to the dump heap. Naturally few of the rocks in the dump would show such scorings, for few would have possessed the necessary combination of conditions: kind of stone and degree of hardness such as can be so marked, and flat face lying upward at exactly the right depth.

With its deceptive partial covering of lichens, some marks on the first of these stones that I discovered looked to me like an Indian's crude drawing of a human figure, and others like circles and curves and a figure 4 that, if correctly seen, must have been deliberately produced by human beings. But after more deliberate study, it is now clear to me that the surface contains no artificially made circles and no lines at right angles to the main direction of the grooves. The appearance of these was in every case due to the peculiarities of lichen-growth and of natural conformations of the rock-surface. There remain only straight or slightly curved furrows running all in one general direction across the stone and occasionally down its sides, though sometimes meeting to form the vague semblance of artificial characters; and these are without doubt due to the agencies named.

At first sight it may seem that the outcome has hardly justified so much investigation and so long a discussion. Yet a scientific investigator knows that he must pursue many paths that lead to negative results. They are part of the process of progress. These rocks are instructive as showing how difficult it often is to trace causes and distinguish between natural and artificial ones, and of the latter between those that are casual and accidental and those that are deliberately intended. They illustrate how easily accidental collocations of lines may closely resemble pictures and letters of the alphabet, especially those of unknown tongues. They thus throw light on the frequency with which unwary observers report the discovery of ancient records that turn out to be something else, and how naturally learned men in the past have advocated futile translations of such complex genuine records as those of Dighton Rock. It has been well worth while to have studied these rocks, solved their mystery, and included them in our report on the inscribed rocks of our Bay.

The interest and value of this case will be enhanced by recalling a few instances in which wide celebrity as ancient human records has been attained by rocks and tablets without sufficient warrant.[1] Some of these were deliberate forgeries, some the work of nature. One of the most celebrated of them, the Grave Creek tablet, inscribed with regular lines of what are clearly meant to be alphabetical characters of some foreign type, is discussed cautiously in Hodge's Handbook, classed

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[1]Critical discussion of most of those here mentioned and of some others may be found in the following among other sources:

Hodge, F. W., editor, Handbook of American Indians north of Mexico, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bull. 30, 1907, 1910; i. 506.

Mallery, G., in 10th Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology, 1893.

Vignaud, H., Expéditions des Scandinaves en Amérique, in Journal de la Société des Américanistes de Paris, 1910, nouv. sér., vol. vii.

Whittlesey, C., in Western Reserve Historical Society Tracts, 1879, no. 44; 1881, no. 53.

Wilson, Sir D., Prehistoric Man, 1862, ii. 180, 194.

Winsor, J., Pre-Columbian Explorations, in Narrative and Critical History of America, 1889, vol. i.

among Controverted Pictographs by Mallery, regarded by Wilson as "given to the world under equivocal circumstances, and elucidated with indiscreet zeal," and called definitely fraudulent by many reputable critics. Whittlesey describes an unquestionable forgery from Ohio; and to the same class belongs an "unmistakably genuine Scandinavian inscription" reported in 1867 from the banks of the Potomac, which Wilson and others tell us was a "clever hoax fabricated by the correspondent of the Washington Union out of genuine Greenland inscriptions." A famous case is that of Monhegan Island in Maine, whose "inscription," regarded by some as carved by ancient Phoenicians and by others as due to the Northmen, is considered by Winsor, Wilson and others as made up out of freaks of natural erosion. Equally famous are the stones at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, whose writings seem to declare in unmistakable Runic letters that "Harko's son addressed the men." Wilson and others deny that these inscriptions are genuine, but apparently they have not yet received critical study. This seems to be true of a number of rocks in Maine, New Hampshire and elsewhere, as it has been heretofore of those of Rhode Island. One case in Massachusetts is that of a rock in West Newbury, in the valley of the Merrimack, described and pictured by G. L. Pool in 1854,[1] celebrated by Whittier in his Double-headed Snake of Newbury as a "Northman's Written Rock," but apparently never mentioned by any competent student. So experienced an observer as Professor W. F. Ganong, who, I trust, will pardon my use of this instance so appropriate to our present argument, writes me that he once found markings on a stone in Maine which at first he took to be undoubtedly Indian and of which he even published an attempted interpretation, but which he is now convinced are glacial scratches. In the summer of 1919 I encountered a rumor that there was a "marked or inscribed rock" on the farm of Stephen O. Metcalf in Exeter. This turned out to be, however, a very modern tribute "To the

[1]New Eng. Hist. Genealog. Register, viii. 185.

Memory of Wawaloam, wife of Miantinomi, 1661," fully described by Sidney S. Rider on page 131 of his "Lands of Rhode Island." I have also traced down rumors of other alleged "inscribed rocks,"—one found in Tiverton, whose marks resembled those at Sachuest and probably were due to similar causes; and one in Swansea which, though lost, almost certainly had on it nothing but natural veins and similar marks. The last case to which I shall refer is that of a rock in Rutland, Massachusetts. This was apparently first mentioned in Morse's American Universal Geography in 1805 as an "Ethiopic inscription." Kendall, in his Travels, 1809, says that he visited it and found it to be a purely natural granite stone with veins of schoerl. Yet Webb, in his letter to Rafn on September 22, 1830, indicates that it was still rumored to be "a line of considerable length in unknown characters;" and only later, after further inquiry, as he announced in his letter of October 31, 1835, did he discover and adopt Kendall's view of it.[1] Wilson wrote of it as "an American counterpart to the famous Swedish Runamo Inscription, in its graphic freaks of natural crystallization." In this same connection, we should not forget the wholly unfounded yet ardently advocated Norse theories concerning the Fall River skeleton and Governor Arnold's windmill at Newport.

The Sachuest stones and these additional instances not only teach us caution in arriving at conclusions concerning apparent inscriptions, but they acquaint us with some of the numerous possibilities that must be held in mind. The clearest lesson conveyed by the history of Dighton Rock is that even in the case of unquestionable human inscriptions our ultimate interpretations must rest not upon emotional preference but upon patiently accumulated and calmly weighed evidence, and that it is very easy to be led astray by imperfect copies and by superficial resemblances. Our whole series of papers is emphasizing as one conclusion that even genuine inscriptions may often contain characters that are meaningless products of a

[1]Antiquitates Americanae, pp. 360, 400.

mere activity-impulse, or in other cases are simply ornamental designs. These last considered cases show that besides intentional design, symbolic or meaningless, we must entertain as alternative possibilities not merely natural forces of a wide variety, but also distorted rumor, deliberate fraud, and human yet unintended agency like that of plough, crow bar and other tools, or like that resulting in grooves incidental to grinding and similar processes. These facts will all be of value when we attempt to formulate our final conclusions concerning the rock-carving activities in the region that we are studying.

Muster Roll in the Canada Expedition 1711

Newport

A List of all the Men taken onbd the Ship the 18 July 1711

1 Danll Rogers
2 Wm Greenman
3 Jere Apleton
4 Peleg Remington
5 Benony Gardner
6 Robe Eldredge
7 Ebenezr Graves
8 Duncan Keley
9 Jos Moss
10 John Watkins
11 John Brown
12 Richd Williams
13 Jonathn Mot
14 Josh Aston
15 Adam Mot
16 Thos Wilcox
17 Parley Alsworth
18 Peleg Green
19 John Pitceher
20 Josh Odell
21 Wm Pullen
22 Josh Hadwell
23 John Ostin
24 Uriah Edwards
25 Henry Hall
26 Edwd Aston
27 Henry Millkin
28 Nicholas Hutchins
29 John Nicholls
30 Jeremiah Gardner
31 Josh Smith
32 Danll Munrow
33 Danll Greenall
34 Wm Case
35 John Voss
36 John Allin
37 Eben Powell
38 Danll Right
39 Wm Comins
40 John Thomas
41 Toby Wats
42 James Bently
43 Nathll Wood
44 Peter Butten
45 Zachrey Eddy
46 Samll Burlingham
47 Thos North
48 John Phileps

49 Richd Sailes
50 Josiah Thornton
51 Jonh Scot
52 Uriah Davis
53 Benj Waite
54 Wm Cate
55 Harrindon
56 Nathl Dogget
57 John North
58 Stephen Arnold
59 Thos Walls
60 Richd Nicholls
61 Robt Nicholls
62 Steph Capell
63 Mark Roberts
64 Wm Careway
65 Nathll Williams
66 John Tarbox
67 Edwd Coxx
68 Wm Underwood
69 Edwd Greenman
70 Wm Cranston
71 Cornelus Peck
72 Wm Griffen
73 John George
74 Benja Palmer
75 Richd Caverly
76 David Barrey
77 Joseph Palmer
78 James Russell
79 Danll Vaughan
80 Timothy Dredges
81 Thos Wells
82 Jeremiah Mot
83 Jonathn Baker
84 Richd Sweet
85 John Sukkuawgsser?
86 Jacob Papegan
87 Robt Drummer
88 Danll Indian
89 Wm Dinell
90 Jonth Month
91 Job Clute
92 Robin Slocum
93 Peter Wilboar
94 Sampson Dennis
95 Thos Talbut
96 Huling James
97 Peter Sweet
98 James Champlin
99 John Cook
100 Johnath Cook
101 Toby Babcook
102 Wm Babut
103 Josh Stanton
104 John Hazeard
105 Samll Greenman
106 John Babcock
107 David Potter
108 Trewgo Squibidge
109 Ned Stratten
110 Thos Larkin
111 Antho Indian
112 Peter Babcock
113 Ephram Morgin
114 Isack Settack
115 Thos Gardiner
116 Isaac King
117 John East
118 Nimble Harris
119 Jeffrey Pander
120 John Freman
121 Robin Teft
122 Toby Stevenson
123 John Jeffrey
124 James Foss
125 Samll Umpeton
126 John Nucomb
127 John Setuck
128 Gregory Jeffrey
129 Joseph Spywood
130 Wannamus
131 John Knight
132 Simon George
133 John Quack
134 John Tantiochen
135 Samll James
136 Isack Neby

137 James Hannah
138 Roger Evens
139 Frank Smith
140 Joseph Rogers
John Earle
141 John Theobolds
142 Samll Littlefield
143 Joshua Clarke
Edwd Springer
John Dublin
James Bowlyson
144 Leynord Cozens
145 Wm Ashton
146 Shubell Clinton
147 Thos Bucker
148 Jamed Yeats
149 Peter Low
Souldrs—149
Sailers
150 John Griffith
151 James Chadsey
152 Robt Lees
153 Ed Nicholls
154 Jno Harrison
155 Humphry More
156 Timo Whiteing
157 John Fuller
158 Tom Coleson
Officers
159 Coll. Lee
160 Majr Smith
161 Capt Hinchman
162 Leiutt Burlingham
163 Do Jefferson
164 Do Clarke
165 Ens. Burlingham
166 Do Green
167 Do Man
168 Capt Brewer
169 Mr Gideons
170 Tho Cranston
171 Tom Byfield not aboard
Impressd
Ed: Springer
J: Earle
James Bowlanson
John Dublin

(From original manuscript in State Archives, Providence, R. I.)

Notes

An article on "King Philip's Chair," together with a picture of the chair, appears in the October number of "Old Time New England."

Mrs. Hiram F. Hunt of Kingston, R. I., and Alfred Trego Butler, Esq., of the College of Arms, London, England, have been elected to membership in the Society.

The October Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society contains an article by Miss M. E. Powel on the French officers who served in the Revolution.

The Society of Colonial Dames in Rhode Island have issued in pamphlet form the addresses delivered at the Dedication of the Rhode Island Bay at Valley Forge.

The volume on American Samplers by Bolton and Coe, which

has just been issued by the Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America, contains considerable material of Rhode Island interest. In addition to listing a large number of Rhode Island samplers, it includes an account of the work of Polly Balch's school in Providence, thus throwing light on a little known phase of local education.

We have received several requests for Volume 11, No. 4, and Volume 13, No. 2, of our "Collections." As our supply of these numbers is exhausted, we can only fill these requests through the generosity of some of our members.

The manuscript account book of Joseph Williams, son of Roger, covering the years 1705 to 1731, has been received as a bequest from the late Mrs. Josephine H. White.

Indian Graves Unearthed at Charlestown

In October, Mr. T. L. Arnold of Arnolda, Charlestown, R. I., while digging a cellar unearthed an old Indian burial ground. The first object discovered was an ancient breech-loading cannon, which was very badly rusted. It lay only a couple of feet beneath the surface. Near it but slightly deeper was found a skeleton. Beside the skeleton was a rather long sword beyond which was discovered another skeleton. The graves were scarcely three feet long indicating that the bodies were probably buried in a curled up position as was often done by the Indians. Three copper kettles, some beads, a clay pipe stem and a tube of blue glass which evidently was the material from which beads were to be cut, although most of the beads found were shell wampum. A few pieces of very coarse blue cloth, perhaps a sort of burlap, were found attached to pieces of copper and bone.

The sword had a rather elaborate guard and although badly rusted still retained some of its spring. Within the distance of fifteen or twenty feet parts of three other skeletons were

discovered although the skulls of these latter skeletons were not found. Some teeth and jawbones of some small animals such as dogs, cats or skunks were also found. Two Indian shell heaps were discovered nearby the graves. These shell heaps had been covered by dirt indicating that a natural surface deposit had taken place. A large hunk of red coloring matter (war paint) was also discovered.

Officers of the Rhode Island Historical Society

FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME.

PRESIDENTS.

James Fenner,	1822 to 1833.
John Howland,	1833 to 1854.
Albert Gorton Greene,	1855 to 1868.
Samuel Greene Arnold,	1868 to 1880.
Zachariah Allen,	1880 to 1882.
William Gammell,	1882 to 1890.
Horatio Rogers,	1890 to 1896.
John Henry Stiness,	1896 to 1903.
George Taylor Paine,	1903
Albert Harkness,	1904 to 1906.
Wilfred Harold Munro	1906 to 1920.
Howard Willis Preston,	1920 to

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Theodore Foster,	1822 to 1823.
Henry Bull,	1823 to 1832.
William Hunter,	1832 to 1835.
Christopher Grant Champlin,	1835 to 1840.
Job Durfee,	1840 to 1845.
William Hunter,	1845 to 1849.
Albert Gorton Greene,	1849 to 1855.
Samuel Greene Arnold,	1855 to 1868.
George Arnold Brayton,	1868 to 1870.
Zachariah Allen	1870 to 1880.
William Gammell,	1880 to 1882.
Francis Brinley,	1882 to 1888.
Charles William Parsons,	1888 to 1890.
George Moulton Carpenter,	1890 to 1896.

William Babcock Weeden,	1897 to 1899.
John Nicholas Brown,	1899 to 1900.
John Franklin Jameson,	1901 to 1902.
George Taylor Paine,	1902 to 1903.
William MacDonald,	1903 to 1914.
William Chace Greene,	1914 to 1920.
Elmer Jeremiah Rathbun,	1920 to

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

John Howland,	1822 to 1823.
Theodore Foster,	1823 to 1828.
Samuel Eddy,	1828 to 1831.
John Brown Francis,	1831 to 1835.
Moses Brown,	1835 to 1837.
Romeo Elton,	1837 to 1843.
Albert Gorton Greene,	1843 to 1849.
William Hunter,	1849 to 1850.
Elisha Reynolds Potter, Jr.,	1850 to 1855.
George Arnold Brayton,	1855 to 1868.
William Read Staples,	1868 to 1869.
Zachariah Allen,	1869 to 1870.
George Arnold Brayton,	1870 to 1873.
Francis Brinley,	1873 to 1882.
Charles William Parsons,	1882 to 1888.
Elisha Benjamin Andrews,	1888 to 1889.
Horatio Rogers,	1889 to 1890.
Elisha Benjamin Andrews	1890 to 1896.
William Babcock Weeden,	1896 to 1897.
William Ames,	1897 to 1900.
John Franklin Jameson,	1900 to 1901.
Robert Hale Ives Goddard,	1901 to 1913.
Stephen Ostrom Edwards,	1913 to 1914.
Charles Sisson,	1914 to 1919.
St. George Leakin Sioussat,	1920 to 1921.
Harold Redwood Curtis,	1921 to

SECRETARIES.

William Read Staples,	1822 to 1830.
Thomas Hopkins Webb,	1830 to 1839.
William Read Staples,	1839 to 1841.
John Power Knowles,	1841 to 1845.
Thomas Coles Hartshorn,	1845 to 1849.
Charles William Parsons,	1849 to 1851.

Henry Truman Beckwith,	1851 to 1861.
Sidney Smith Rider,	1861 to 1866.
Edwin Miller Snow,	1866 to 1867.
Zachariah Allen,	1867 to 1868.
George Taylor Paine,	1868 to 1873.
Amos Perry,	1873 to 1899.
Wilfred Harold Munro,	1900 to 1906.
Amasa Mason Eaton,	1906 to 1914.
Howard Willis Preston,	1914 to 1920.
Erling Cornelius Ostby,	1920
George Thurston Spicer,	1920 to

TREASURERS.

John Brown Francis,	1822 to 1824.
John Howland,	1824 to 1833.
John Russell Bartlett,	1833 to 1836.
Thomas Wilson Dorr,	1836 to 1842.
George Baker,	1842 to 1854.
Welcome Arnold Greene,	1854 to 1867.
Richmond Pearl Everett,	1867 to 1903.
Robert Perkins Brown,	1903 to 1914.
Henry Tyler Grant,	1914 to 1915.
Edward Kimball Aldrich, Jr.,	1915 to

CABINET KEEPERS AND LIBRARIANS.

William Read Staples,	1822 to 1823.
Walter Raleigh Danforth,	1823 to 1824.
Joseph Howard,	1824 to 1825.
John Gould Anthony,	1825 to 1826.
Albert Gorton Greene,	1826 to 1836.
William Read Staples,	1836 to 1841.
George Baker,	1841 to 1845.
Thomas Coles Hartshorn,	1845 to 1849.
George Washington Greene,	1849 to 1851.
Edwin Martin Stone,	1851 to 1880.
Amos Perry,	1880 to 1899.
Clarence Saunders Bridgham,	1900 to 1908.
Howard Malcolm Rice,	1908
William Arthur Wing,	1909 to 1910.
Frank Greene Bates,	1910 to 1912.
Howard Millar Chapin,	1912 to

Abstracts of Early East Greenwich Wills

CONTRIBUTED BY
NORMAN M. ISHAM AND HOWARD W. PRESTON

Cooper, James, January 4, 1716; July 27, 1716.

To wife, **Elizabeth,** admx. estate during widowhood.
" son, **James,** hrs. and assigns, all of estate at marriage or death of wife afsd.
James, to pay brothers, **Stephen, Samuel** and **Mathew,** five pounds at age of 21.
James, to pay his sisters, **Mary** and **Elizabeth,** seven pounds at age of 18.
To my negro servant, **John,** his life and liberty.
Ex.: **Pardon Tillinghast, Jeremiah Gould.**
Test: **Pardon Tillinghast, Jeremiah Gould, Richard Briggs.**

I, 5

Wever, William, May 22, 1718; July 14, 1718.

Admx.: Widow, **Elizabeth.**
Test: **Cheman Wever, Joseph Wever.**

I, 9

Grinnell, Matthew, yeoman, June 17, 1718; August 30, 1718.

Admx.: Widow, **Mary,**
Appraisers: **Joshua Coggeshall, John Willson, Nicholas Whitford.**

I, 9

Mary Grinnell, widow, marries **John Manchester.** They pay **Thomas Grinnell,** eldest son of **Matthew,** 5 pounds, 18 sh. at age of 21.
To **Matthew,** second son, 36 pounds at age of 21.
" **John,** third son, 36 pounds at age of 21.
If any of three die before the age of 21, the sum shall be divided equally between the remaining two.
Dated January 21, 1719/0.

I, 18

Green, Benjamin, husbandman, January 4, 1718; March 5, 1718/9.

To wife, **Humility,** estate during widowhood.
" son, **John,** and hrs., farm he now lives on.
" " **Benjamin,** and hrs., ½ homestead.
" " **Henry,** other half of homestead.
" " **Caleb.**

Minors.

" " **Joshua.**
To daughters, **Mary Spencer,** wife of **Thomas,** 20 sh.
" " **Ann Tennant,** wife of **Daniel,** 20 sh.
" " **Phoebe Wells,** wife of **Thomas,** 20 sh.
" " **Sarah Green, Dinah Green, Deborah Green, Katharine Green**—under 18.
Exec.: wife, **Humility,** Capt. **Benjamin Nichols,** of **Kingston, John Coggeshall,** and **Joshua Coggeshall.**
Test: **Joseph Maxon, Joseph Lewis, Mary Lewis.**

I, 11, 12, 13

Davis, William, July 3, 1721; December 30, 1721.

To my daughter, **Ida,** hrs. and assigns, lands and orchards at age of 18.
" my wife, **Katharine,** admx. remainder of estate.
Appraisers, Capt. **Benjamin Nichols, Thomas Spencer.**

I, 19

Bundy, James, September 25, 1721; April 10, 1722.

To son, **Samuel,** sole exec.

I, 22

Cory, William, July 23, 1719; August 31, 1719.

To wife, **Elizabeth,** exec. estate during widowhood.
" son, **William,** one hundred acres of land and one grove.
" " **John,** one grove.
" " **Anthony,** one house lot.
" my four daughters, 4 cowes.
Test: **John Moss, Henry Mattison, John Carpenter.**

I, 15

Spencer, Michael, February 23, 1722/3; May 30, 1723.

To wife, **Deborah,** admx. whole estate, councilors, Major **Thomas Ivy** and **Thomas Spencer.**
" son, **Thomas** and hrs., at widow's death, 2-3 real estate with my work tools.
" son, **Jeremiah** and hrs. remaining 1-3.
" grandson **Joseph Read,** one bed and bedding at age of 21.
" my daughter, **Susannah,** wife of John———?, ¾ of whole estate after widow's death.
" my son, **Thomas,** remaining ¼ at widow's death.
Test: **John Spencer, John Spencer,** 2nd, **Thomas Spencer.**
I, 23

Nicholas, John, yeoman, 26th September, 1725; 18th November, 1725.

To son, **John,** and hrs., ¼ of farm, north side, 25 acres, 5 pounds.
" son, **Thomas,** ¼ farm, city lot lying north of country road and salt water, and 5 pounds.
" son, **Robert,** other half of farm.
" " **Joseph,** remaining land, buildings and improvements.
" daughter, **Susannah Cahoon,** wife of **Samuel,** of Warwick, one feather bed, three blankets, etc., one coverlid, 15 pounds.
" daughter, **Mary,** 2 feather beds, blankets, coverlid, pillows, etc., one cow, 25 pounds, 2 brass kettles, all my pewter, except half a dozen pewter spoons.
" my wife, **Deborah,** 10 pounds.
Ex.: **Robert Nicholas, Joseph Nicholas.**
Test: **David Vaughn, Christopher Vaughn, Thomas Spencer.**
I, 34, 35, 36, 37

Spink, Robert, January 14, 1724/5; April 26, 1726.

Son of **Israel Spink, Israel Spink,** sole exec.
I, 40

Long, Philip, October 3, 1726; November 5, 1726.

Widow, **Hannah,** sole exec.
I, 43

Cannon, Sword and Indian remains recently excavated on the farm o
Mr. T. L. Arnold, Arnolda, Charlestown, R. I.
Photograph contributed by John R. Hess

STEAM BOAT EXCURSION

THE PROVIDENCE BAND

Having chartered the Steam Boat

RUSH LIGHT,

(Capt. **J. D. SCOTT**) will make an excursion down the Narragansett and Mount Hope Bays, *to full Moon*

ON FRIDAY, 29TH INST.

Leaving Providence at 8 o'clock, A. M. and return about sun set, touching at Bristol both ways. Fare down and up one dollar.

The Band will be on board, and use every exertion to render the excursion agreeable to the company by the performance of several SONGS, GLEES. NATIONAL AIRS, WALTZS, COTILLIONS, &c. &c.

Providence, July 22, 1831.

Old advertising broadside with picture of one of the early Narragansett Bay steamboats.

From original in Rhode Island Historical Society Library

Reynolds, Henry, died intest. August 8, 1726; November 5, 1726.

Mary, widow, sole exec. estate to be divided among children.

I, 47

Underwood, William, 1726; September 15, 1726.

To wife, **Ann,** exec. whole estate during widowhood, and 50 lots in East Greenwich.

" son, **Israel,** 60 acres of land at age of 21.

" sons, **William, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Ruth** and **Alice.** (Friend **Joseph Edwards,** to find a trade for the sons).

I, 49, 50

Nicholas, Phoebe, 5th April, 1721; 28th March, 1727.

To son, **John,** 1 sh.

" " **Stephen,** 1 sh.

" granddaughter, **Phoebe,** my chest.

" my six children, **Richard, Robert, Jane Vaughn, Elizabeth, Sarah Mattison, Ann Underwood,** the remainder of the whole estate.

Ex.: My son, **Richard Nicholas.**

Test: **John ——, Elizabeth Cahoon, Thomas Spencer.**

I, 53

Coggeshall, Capt. Joshua, October 2, 1727.

Thomas Coggeshall, yeoman, sole ex.

I, 57

Brayton, Thomas, yeoman, 7th March, 1727/8; 13th April, 1728.

To son, **Thomas,** during life, lands in Portsmouth, rights in hunting swamps (to pay wife **Mary Brayton,** 20 pounds a year after age of 21) In case of death of **Thomas,** lands and premises to be given to sons, **Gideon** and **Francis Brayton.**

" son **Gideon,** at age of 21, farm where he now lives, and two city lots, swamps and all the rest of lands at age of 21.

" son, **Francis,** and hrs. farm and swamps.

" my two daughters, **Mary** and **Hannah,** all the land given me by my father-in-law, **Gideon——?**

" my son, **Thomas,** my negro boy, **Pero.**

" my daughter, **Mary,** my negro girl, **Jessie.**

" my wife, **Mary,** my negro woman, **Betty,** the remainder of the estate to be divided between wife and children.

Ex.: Wife, **Mary,** and son, **Thomas,** when he arrive at age of 21.
Test: **John Green, Robert Vaughn, Thomas Spencer.**
I, 72, 73, 74

Straight, Henry, May 5, 1728; June 29, 1728.

To son, **Henry,** 5 sh.
" " **John,** one half of farm.
" wife, **Mary,** sole ex. whole estate, goods and chattels.
Test: **Robert Vaughn,**
Samuel Shippe,
John Carpenter,
I, 83, 84

Spencer, Deborah, 14th November, 1728.
(Widow and exec. of **Michael Spencer,** died intest)
Exec.: **Thomas Spencer** and wife.
Inventory, 69 pounds, 9s. 5d.
I, 91

Peirce, Phillip, 13th August, 1728; 28th September, 1728.

To wife, **Frances,** sole exec. 1/3 estate.
" my three children, **Mary, Benjamin,** and **Phillips,** 2/3 estate.
Test: **Benjamin Bentley, John Gay, Thomas Spencer.**
Inventory. 158 pounds, 14s. 11d.
I, 91

Goudwin, John, 16th January, 1728/9.
Exec.: **Peter Mory.**
Inventory, 46 pounds, 12s, 2d.
I, 95

Vaughn, David, 19th December, 1728; 28th December, 1728.

Mary Vaughn, widow, sole exec.
Inventory, 2138 pounds, 17s. 4d.
I, 101

Wells, Thomas, October 16, 1727; April 26, 1729.

Exec.: Son **Peter Wells** and his wife, **Mary.**
Inventory, 163 pounds, 7s. 6d.
I, 101

Vaughn, George, 7th November, 1729; 29th November, 1729.

To son, **George** and heirs, homestead, farm with lot lying next to **John Langford's** land, with small lot lying adjoining to **William Bennet,** housing buildings, fencings, and improvements, all privileges and appurtenances therein.

" son, **Daniel** and heirs; land adjoining **Samuel Gerrys',** with bogland and shore, 2 house lots between Country Road and salt water, privileges and appurtenances therein.

" sons **George** and **Daniel,** each one feather bed and furniture.

" daughter, **Elizabeth,** 60 pounds, one half of household goods, except what is given to sons.

" daughter, **Jane,** 60 pounds, one half of household goods except aforementioned, to be given her at age of 18 or day of marriage.

" son, **Daniel,** 20 pounds, one pair of oxen, three cows, 20 sheep, when he is 21.

" son **George,** remainder of estate.

Ex.: **Christopher Vaughn,** brother, and son, **George.**

Test: **John Wever, John Peirce, Thomas Spencer.**

Inventory, 611 pounds, 19s. 4d.

I, 105

Hyams, John, November 27, 1729.

John Hyams, son, ex.

Inventory, 60 pounds, 19s. 4d.

Briggs, Daniel, yeoman, 9th September, 1727; 7th April, 1730.

To daughter, **Hannah,** wife of **Joseph Gardiner,** and heirs, 70 shillings.

" daughter, **Martha,** wife of **Samuel Spencer,** and heirs, 10 pounds.

" daughter, **Deliverance Briggs,** one feather bed and bedding, and 20 pounds.

" daughter, **Mary Briggs,** one feather bed and bedding and 20 pounds.

" daughter, **Deliverance** and **Mary Briggs,** all my movables within doors.

To my son, **Benjamin,** exec. and heirs, dwelling house and farm, and remainder of estate.

Test: **Thomas Mattison, William Remington.**

Inventory, 323 pounds, 19s. 10d.

I, 111

Semeralt, Hannah, died January 17, 1729/30.

Henry Semeralt, brother, gives inventory April 11, 1730. 39 pounds, 3s, 0d.

Dellenor, Joseph, yeoman, July 5, 1729; April 5, 1731.

To son, **John Dellenor,** 5 shillings after death of wife.
" daughter, **Lidia Parker,** 1 shilling after death of wife.
" son, **William,** 5 shillings in manner aforesaid.
" daughter, **Mary Joshling,** 1 shilling in manner aforesaid.
" my daughter, **Abigail Niles,** 1 shilling in manner aforesaid.
" my wife, **Rachael Dellenor,** exec. all my estate during life.
" my grandson, **William,** son of **Abigail,** whole estate after death of wife aforesaid.

Test: **Jeremiah Jones, James Reynolds, Benjamin Sweet.**
Inventory, 65 pounds, 07s. 6d.

I, 118

Straight, Henry, blacksmith, 25th October, 1732; 16th November, 1732.

To son, **Samuel,** at age of 21, 1/3 of estate after bequests.
" sons, **John, Thomas, Joseph,** and **Henry,** remainder of estate after bequests are paid.
To my daughter, **Rebekah Beley,** 5 shillings.
" " " **Elizabeth Straight,** 5 shillings.
" " " **Hannah Westcote,** 5 shillings.
" " " **Mary Straight,** 5 shillings.
" " " **Sarah Straight,** 5 pounds.
" " " **Abigail Straight,** 5 pounds.
" " " **Mary Straight,** 35 pounds for her bringing up and education, to be given her at age of 18.
" son, **Thomas,** to be the guardian of **Henry** and **Mary.**
" " **Thomas,** Exec. and heirs, remainder of estate and lands, after legacies are paid.

Test: **Mary Sweet, Nicholas Whitford, Jonathan Picher, John Jenkins.**
Inventory, 172 pounds, 19s. 6d.

I, 122

Slocum, Joseph, yeoman, 31st October, 1732; 27th January, 1732/3.

To my wife, **Mary,** exec. all movable objects.
" my child, not yet born, all my lands and house, to its heirs and assigns, if said child die without issue after death of wife aforesaid, all lands to be given to cousin, **Thomas**

Rogers. If Thomas Rogers die without issue all lands to be given to my cousin, **Thomas Green,** and heirs.
Test: **Caleb Corry, Joseph Corr, William Corr.**
Inventory, 402 pounds, 05s 1d.

I, 130

Lewis, George, _____ died intestate.
John Nicholas, sole admx. appointed 24th February, 1732/3.
Inventory, 44 pounds, 14s. 11d.

I, 136

Briggs, Richard, yeoman, 29th March, 1733; 28th April, 1733.

To my wife, **Exsperiance,** 20 pounds and best room in my dwelling house during widowhood.
" son, **Richard,** 5 pounds.
" " **Francis,** 5 pounds and about 8 or 10 acres of land north and east of my homestead farm.
" son, **John,** and heirs, all my homestead farm, with all priviliges and appurtenances therein, except otherwise bequeathed.
" son, **Caleb** 10 acres of land north and east of **Capt. Peter Mawney's** land, and south of highway, and west of **Jonathan Nichols,** and 5 pounds.
" daughter, **Sarah Aylsworth,** 20 pounds.
" " **Ann King,** 10 pounds, 5 sheep and 5 lambs.
" sons, **Phillip and Daniel,** 10 pounds each, to be paid to the guardian of said sons.
" my daughters, **Mary** and **Ada,** 5 pounds each.
" " grandsons, **Richard Briggs, Caleb Tarbox,** and **Richard Mattison,** (bequest illegible) to be paid their respective fathers.

Ex.: **John Briggs,** son. ....
Test: **Thomas Spencer, Jeremiah Jenkins, John Jenkins.**
Inventory, 484 pounds, Os. Od.

I, 136

Drake, John, yeoman, 16th June, 1733; 27th June, 1733.

To my wife, **Esther,** and heirs, 1/3 estate.
" **Desier Arnold,** wife of **John Arnold,** 5 pounds.
" **Fear Smith,** wife of **Christopher Smith,** 5 pounds.
" my daughter, **Elizabeth Drake,** and heirs, 100 pounds at age of 18.
" my son, **Francis Drake,** and heirs, the remainder of estate at age of 21.

If **Francis** or **Elizabeth** die before coming to age, their portion shall go to the survivor.
Ex.: **Joseph Wever** and **Esther Drake**, wife.
Test: **William Greene, Benjamin Bentley & William Martin.**
Inventory, 707 pounds, 14s. 10d.

I, 341

Hopkins, Joseph, 15th May, 1735; 5th July, 1735.

To my wife, **Martha Hopkins**, the best room in my dwelling house, 1 cow, 2 hogs, and the keeping of said cow and hogs during her natural life, and all my household goods or movables, in lieu of her third or dowry in my estate.
" my son, **Joseph**, 5 shillings.
" " sons, **William** and **Samuel**, and heirs, my household farm to be divided equally.
" my son, **John**, 30 pounds.
" " " **Robert**, ½ my outdoors movables except aforesaid and 30 pounds.
" my son, **Thomas**, 30 pounds at age of 21, if he dies before age of 21, the sum to be divided between his sisters, **Phoebe Picher, Hannah** and **Theodosha Hopkins**, and ½ my outdoors movables except otherwise bequeathed.
To my daughter, **Phoebe Picher**, 1 cow.
" " " **Hannah** and **Theodosha**, 25 pounds and 1 cow each.
Ex.: Sons, **William** and **Samuel Hopkins.**
Test: **Nicholas Whitford, Joseph Berry, John Jenkins.**
Inventory, 173 pounds, 17s. 6d.

I, 350

Gardiner, Samuel, October 23, 1735; October 29, 1735.

Mary Gardiner, wife, exec.
Inventory, 258 pounds, 4s. 11d.

I, 155

Davis, Joshua, yeoman, 27th May, 1734; 31st January, 1735/6.

To my granddaughter, **Elda Davis**, dau. of **William Davis**, 5 shillings.
" my son, **Aaron Davis**, 5 shillings and my wearing apparel.
" " " **John**, 5 shillings,
" " " **Samuel Davis**, and heirs, all my rights in the forge and all priviliges therein.
" my grandson, **Joshua Davis**, and heirs, (son of **William**

Davis) my house lot in East Greenwich. If he die under age or without issue, the house lot to go to his next eldest brother, his heirs and assigns.

" my daughter, **Rebekah Briggs**, wife of **James Briggs**, 10 pounds.

" my daughter, **Katharine Godfree**, wife of **John Godfree**,

" and to my granddaughter, **Mary Pain**, 10 pounds each.

" my daughters, **Rebekah Briggs** and **Katharine Godfree**, all my pewter, marked with my wife's maiden name, to be equally divided between them.

" my son, **Jeffrey Davis**, my negro boy, **Fentain**, my son, **Jeffrey Davis** to pay his brother, **Samuel**, 10 pounds, within one year, and to pay his brothers, **Aaron**, and **John**, 9 pounds, 15s. each within one year after my decease.

" my wife, **Mary**, the whole profit of the part of my house I now dwell in, and all household goods, the whole profit of the northern most half of my homestead farm, or that my two sons, **Jeffrey** and **Samuel Davis**, shall provide one milch cow and riding beast between them, and pay my wife 10 pounds each year of her natural life, instead of her lawful thirds.

Ex.: **Samuel** and **Jeffrey Davis.**
Test: **Thomas Mattison, Joseph Bery, Thomas Spencer.**
Inventory, 241 pounds, 15s. 0d.

I, 157

Spencer, Martha, 27th March, 1736.

Ex.: **Walter Spencer**, brother.
Inventory, 33 pounds, 10s. 5d.

I, 163

Peckham, Reuben, June 1, 1736; July 2, 1736.

To my wife, **Sarah**, all the profit my tools and benches, mare, colt and cow, all household goods, dwelling house in Newport, now in possession of **Andrew Sherburn**, during natural life, after her decease to descend to **Anthony Peckham**, son, and his heirs. In case of death of **Anthony** before his mother, the house to go to my cousin, **John Peckham.**

To my son, **Anthony**, and heirs, my two shops, and one stable with the land thereto on the Main street in **Newport**, when at age of 21. The profits in the meantime to be given to my wife, **Sarah.** In case said son shall die before age of

21, said shop and stable and land shall go to **John Peckham** and heirs. **Anthony** to be sent to school by his mother to learn a trade.

Ex.: **Sarah Peckham,** wife and **Ephraim Weeks,** uncle, of **Newport.**

Test: **John Brett, Joseph Nichols & Giles Peirce.**

Inventory, 685 pounds, 1s. 5 and 1/4d.

I, 165

Spencer, Robert, died intest. August 3, 1736.

Ex.: **Robert Spencer,** yeoman.

Inventory, 254 pounds, 12s. 10d.

I, 171

Case, Abigail, widow of **William Case,** 22nd October, 1729; 23rd February, 1736/7.

To my grandchildren, **Mary Case & Abigail Case & Margaret Case,** daughters of **William Case,** the estate to be equally divided with the exception of 20 shillings more to **Margaret.**

Ex.: **John Manchester.**

Test: **Sarah Tillinghast, Elizabeth Berry, Pardon Tillinghast.**

Inventory, 236 pounds, 2s. 6d.

I, 172

Hope, Mary, widow of **Edward Hope,** 14th May, 1734; 25th December, 1736.

To my son, **William Hope,** 5 shillings.

" " daughter, **Mary Roberts,** black silk hood

" " " **Content Hope,** feather bed and furniture thereto belonging.

" my daughters, aforesaid, all my other goods and money.

Ex.: **John Manchester,** my cousin.

Test.: **John Nichols, Thomas Mattison, John Jenkins.**

Inventory, 113 pounds, 13s. 4d.

I, 176

Briggs, Thomas, January 4th, 1724; December 25, 1736.

To my wife, **Martha,** residue of estate after debts are paid, and after her death to go to my daughter, **Ann Gardiner.**

Test: **Joseph Edwards, Ishmael Spink, Thomas Spencer.**

Inventory, 157 pounds, 5s. 11d.

I, 181

[CONTINUED IN THE APRIL NUMBER]

Form of Legacy

"I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island Historical Society the sum of ..... dollars."